

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Michael Cofield on 10/23/08.
3. The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A method for analyzing a media path in a packet switched network, comprising:

providing media trace packets configured to use the same application protocol as actual media payload packets to be sent along the media path and further configured to match, at a protocol layer other than that of the application protocol, a priority indicator to be provided by the actual media packets to specify a desired one of a plurality of priority levels available in the network, wherein the media trace packets have the same class of service bits and same ports as the actual media payload packets, and wherein the media trace packets have a different synchronization identifier than the actual media payload packets;

varying a Time To Live (TTL) value in the media trace packets to intentionally cause faults at intermediate nodes in the media path; and

analyzing fault notices received from the intermediate nodes in the media path caused by the media trace packets.

Claims 10-20 (Canceled)

Claim 21. (Currently Amended) A system for analyzing a media path in a packet switched network, comprising:

means for providing media trace packets configured to use the same application protocol as actual media payload packets to be sent along the media path and further configured to match, at a protocol layer other than that of the application protocol, a priority indicator to be provided by the actual media payload packets to specify a desired one of a plurality of priority levels available in the network, wherein the media trace packets have the same class of service bits and same ports as the actual media payload packets, and wherein the media trace packets have a different synchronization identifier than the actual media payload packets;

means for varying a Time To Live (TTL) value in the media trace packets to intentionally cause faults at intermediate nodes in the media path; and

means for analyzing fault notices received from the intermediate nodes in the media path caused by the media trace packets.

Claim 30. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium having stored thereon computer executable instructions for analyzing a media path in a packet switched network that, when executed by a processor, causes the processor to perform the method of:

providing media trace packets configured to use the same application protocol as actual media payload packets to be sent along the media path and further configured to match, at a protocol layer other than that of the application protocol, a priority indicator to be provided by the actual media payload packets to specify a desired one of a plurality of priority levels available in the network, wherein the media trace packets have the same class of service bits and

same ports as the actual media payload packets, and wherein the media trace packets have a different synchronization identifier than the actual media payload packets;

varying a Time To Live (TTL) value in the media trace packets to intentionally cause faults at intermediate nodes in the media path; and

analyzing fault notices received from the intermediate nodes in the media path caused by the media trace packets.

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to BRIAN D. NGUYEN whose telephone number is (571)272-3084. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-6:00 Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Trost can be reached on (571) 272-7872. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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Art Unit: 2416

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/Brian D Nguyen/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2416